

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW Room TWB204  
Washington, DC 20554

June 17, 2004

Dear Madam Secretary,

The Commission has before it a Petition for Declaratory ruling filed by the National Association of Broadcasters. (MB Docket No. 04-160) As a broadcaster, I wholeheartedly support this petition and urge you and the Commission to stop satellite radio providers XM and Sirius from launching localized traffic and weather services. Without your intervention, these two companies, with 120 channels each, will reach into every market and try to duplicate what local broadcasters provide.

We, as broadcasters, are in the audience delivery business. Every day we serve our community of license and attempt to build an audience that we can deliver to our advertisers.

These two satellite providers were granted licenses on the expressed promise that their service would be national only. Now XM and Sirius have blatantly broken those promises, launching local traffic and weather in the top twenty-one markets in the country. This is only the beginning.

My wife and I are the licensees of WALI-FM, Walterboro, South Carolina. We have owned and operated this radio station for over eight years and provide a 24 hour service to the Lowcountry of South Carolina in the form of news, music, sports, community news and daily programs.

Listeners of WALI-FM appreciate what we have done and love the idea that they have their own "local" radio station that provides them with news, local weather and information, along with High School football, college football, professional baseball and NASCAR racing. We also are an ABC Network affiliate carrying Paul Harvey News.

Recently we broadcast the groundbreaking ceremonies of the new VA Nursing facility here in Colleton County, which drew praise from many listeners and politicians alike. This new center means millions in the form of jobs, and revenue to Colleton County. County Council members, local law enforcement officials, local charitable organizations and others are given daily exposure in morning drive time to get their message directly to the community. This is all in an effort to serve our community of license.

It wasn't always this way. As local owners, we've worked hard to maintain the trust and respect that our listeners have granted us. Please don't allow these satellite providers the

opportunity to take the audience we've worked so hard to service. They'll be trying to get our advertisers next.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Karl Hess  
President & General Manager  
WALI-FM, Walterboro, SC